PROPOSAL TO CLOSE PAYAP UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE AND OPEN NEW STUDY ABROAD AT CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY, IN COLLABORATION WITH UNIVERSITY STUDIES ABROAD CONSORTIUM (USAC)

RATIONALE:

For the past ten years, UW-Eau Claire has been sending students on exchange to Payap University’s South East Asian Studies program located in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Beginning in 2012, Payap University has undergone major administrative restructuring that has negatively impacted their ability to consistently offer programs to our students. In 2013 and in 2014, UWEC students admitted to this program have had their program cancelled by Payap University on very short notice, due to administrative problems at Payap University. All funds were returned to the students, but the cancellation came at such short notice that students were unable to have a study abroad experience.

UWEC student interest in study abroad in Thailand remains strong and we want to continue a presence in this world region, as it draws the interest of many Hmong-American students and students in education and nursing.

The University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) offers both summer and semester terms delivering a wide range of courses on SE Asian studies, language and culture. These courses will be attractive to UWEC students.

Costs: USAC-Thailand is less costly; this option would decrease the cost to students by some $2,000, while increasing the level of student support and services. (Please see attached cost estimates for more detailed information.)

The level of student on-site support from Payap was limited and unreliable. Students on the USAC-Thailand program would have access to an on-site resident director who is there to conduct a week long orientation, assist with accommodation issues, and create programming and cultural excursions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Payap University</th>
<th>USAC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Host Institution</td>
<td>Payap University</td>
<td>Chiang Mai University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Director</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academics</td>
<td>Students take courses in the Institute for South East Asian Studies program at Payap University</td>
<td>Students take courses at the USAC Center that are taught by Chiang Mai University professors, hired by USAC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA Requirement</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>International student housing</td>
<td>Furnished apartments close to campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Students buy own food</td>
<td>Students buy own food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airport Pick Up Service</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Opportunities</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes. Also offers unpaid internships</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Field Trips-Included in Program Fee | Yes, vary semester to semester | Field trips vary every semester, but recent examples are:  
- City tour of Chiang Mai  
- Walking street market tour  
- Doi Suthep Hilltop Temple and Phu Ping Palace Tour  
- Chiang Rai Province or Doi Inthanon National Park (depends on semester)  
- Mae Sai and Chiang Dao Caves |
| Optional Group Flight | No | Yes |
| Total Cost of Program | $13,205 | Summer: $7,277, Semester: $11,030 |

**ENROLLMENT LIMITS:**
USAC maximum enrollment per semester is 40 students. At the time of this proposal, USAC has adequate capacity to accommodate the interest level of UWEC students. At this time, UW-Eau Claire typically sends 3 students per year to Thailand.

**ACADEMIC LOGISTICS:**

**How are grades reported?**
USAC will report the courses on USAC grade reports.

**What language is used on the above document? If not English, what resources are required for an English translation?**
The USAC grade reports will be issued in English.

**What credit system is used and how does it translate into U.S. credits?**
Most courses are offered for 3 U.S. credits. Students are required to take between 12-18 credits for semester long programs and up to 6 credits for summer session II.

There are a few optional 1 credit field studies available. If they are taken for credit, then added academic requirements (readings, research, written assignments, reports, etc.) are completed.

**How is course level determined?**
Course levels are the same as UW-Eau Claire 100 level to 400 level. Typically 100-200 level courses are considered lower level and 300-400 are considered upper level.

**What grade scale is used and what is the conversion to UWEC grades?**
USAC uses an A-F letter grade scale as does UW-Eau Claire.

**CURRICULUM:**
All courses are taught in English. A minimum of 12 credits is required per semester, however students may enroll in up to 18 credits. Students may enroll in 6 credits for summer session II program that runs for five weeks. Course availability is subject to student interest and enrollment. Introductory Thai language courses are available.

All courses are taught by faculty from Chiang Mai University hired to teach for USAC. All coursework is created in the United States. Course work is transcripted on USAC grade reports.

For a list of course offerings and course descriptions: [http://usac.unr.edu/study-abroad-programs/thailand/chiang-mai/courses/2014/fall](http://usac.unr.edu/study-abroad-programs/thailand/chiang-mai/courses/2014/fall). Syllabi available from USAC if necessary.

**Internship Options**
Students do have the option to participate in an internship and earn up to 3 credits. Per the USAC website, information about the internships:

*USAC internships are rich resources for your academic and professional development particularly in your study abroad setting. USAC internships are considered courses and count as part of your credit load. They can be time-consuming but are very worthwhile. Students will be working in an authentic local environment, with exposure to the Thai language. Thai language ability is not necessary to complete an internship, but helpful. Interns earn credits but no financial compensation. The schedule and the number of work hours will be determined by the schedule of USAC courses.*

*Example placements include local schools and teaching English in the community. Placement is not guaranteed by USAC, rather it will be determined by your application and supporting materials and an interview with the internship sponsor onsite.*

*Eligibility—enrollment in the Chiang Mai program, a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and junior standing at the time of the internship. A refundable fee of $100 is charged and returned upon successful completion of the internship.*

**Field Study Options**
Per the USAC website:

*USAC helps you explore the historical, cultural, and natural features of the region with carefully planned tours. If taken for one credit, added academic requirements (readings, research, written assignments, reports etc.) deepen your*
experience. This turns a tour into a Field Study which counts as part of your credit load. The optional Hill Tribe Peoples and Culture Tour can be taken as a Field Study course; the Insight Meditation Field Study is also this type of course.

ACCOMMODATIONS:
Per the USAC website:

The apartments are within walking distance to campus and convenient to Chiang Mai Airport. Typically, these options are fully furnished double rooms equipped with air-conditioning, hot and cold water, small refrigerator, and high speed internet for daily or monthly rental. Students live in single-sex dorms and have access to 24-hour security and reception desk as well as a pool, gym and laundry facilities. Many affordable and convenient restaurants and cafes are nearby. Most of them are located in the heart of Chiang Mai’s most chic district with easy access to the best shopping and entertainment areas, the central business district called Nimman Haemin. Housing fees (rent for double occupancy; excluding breakfast) are included in the summer program fees.

CALENDAR:
The fall term runs from late August until mid-December. The spring term runs from early January until early May. Summer I term runs from late May until late June.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:
The GPA requirement for this program is a 2.5, which is accepted by USAC.

FOREIGN CULTURE REQUIREMENT:
Under the current foreign culture requirement as documented in the 2013-2014 UWEC Undergraduate Catalogue on page 37, a semester abroad at the USAC-Thailand program would allow eligible students to fulfill their foreign culture requirement under the following option:

(b) earning credit (and maintaining good academic standing) in either a full semester of study abroad or approved internship abroad, or incrementally through a combination of short term study abroad and courses designated as fulfilling the foreign culture requirement. The incremental value of a short term study abroad program is available in the Center for International Education, Schofield 3.
## University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Center for International Education

**USAC ESTIMATED STUDY ABROAD BUDGET**
USAC Chiang Mai, Thailand, Spring 2015

### Costs You Will Pay Directly to UWEC:

CIE Program Fee includes:

- Program Fee: (tuition/fees) $3,880
- CIE Admin fees $630
- CISI Insurance $170

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST YOU PAY DIRECTLY TO UWEC**: $4,680

### Total Additional Costs to Expect:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>In Baht</th>
<th>In Dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodations, double room</td>
<td>17,500</td>
<td>$507</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Deposit</td>
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<td>$250</td>
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<td>Utilities</td>
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<td>$500</td>
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<td>Meals</td>
<td>35,000</td>
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<td>Local Transportation</td>
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<td>Books</td>
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<td>Passport/Photos</td>
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<td>$170</td>
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<td>Multiple Entry Non-Immigrant Visa</td>
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<td>$200</td>
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<td>School Uniform</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>$14</td>
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<td>Visa Extension Fee</td>
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<td>$90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Expenses</td>
<td>37,000</td>
<td>$1,072</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated Round-Trip Airfare (MSP to Chiang Mai)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,300</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL ADDITIONAL COSTS TO EXPECT**: $6,350

**TOTAL ESTIMATED PROGRAM COST**: $11,030

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### Important Notes for All Students

- Please note that these costs are estimated for the term above and are intended to be used for planning purposes. Costs can fluctuate as a result of changes in exchange rates, tuition or airfare increases & varying personal lifestyles.
- If planning for a future academic year, please add 7%.
- Personal expenses address basic necessities and light to moderate social expenses only.
- Optional personal travel is not included in this estimate. Plan in additional funds for optional travel you hope to do.
- Minnesota residents add reciprocity; residents of other states add non-resident tuition fees.

### Important Notes for Student with Financial Aid

- The following variable costs may be included in your financial aid budget depending upon your personal circumstances. Please meet with Melissa Vogler in Financial Aid to discuss your budget. Variable costs may include: vaccinations, visa travel, or variable course fees.
- If you receive financial aid, only the costs you pay to UWEC will be automatically paid from your aid. If you receive more aid than what you need to pay to UWEC, you will receive a refund. You are responsible for paying all other costs directly to the vendor(s) involved.

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Updated 4/22/14 JMK
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire  
Center for International Education

ESTIMATED STUDY ABROAD BUDGET  
USAC Chiang Mai, Thailand, Summer Session II, 2014  
6 credits, 5 week session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Costs You Will Pay Directly to UWEC:</th>
<th>In Dollars</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CIE Program Fee includes:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Fee: (tuition/fees;</td>
<td>$ 2,780</td>
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<tr>
<td>double occupancy housing w/out</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>breakfast)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CIE Admin fees</td>
<td>$ 630</td>
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<tr>
<td>CISI Insurance</td>
<td>$ 34</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST YOU PAY DIRECTLY TO UWEC</strong>:</td>
<td><strong>$ 3,444</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Additional Costs to Expect:</th>
<th>In Baht</th>
<th>In Dollars</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>8,000</td>
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<td>Housing deposit (refundable)</td>
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<td>Utilities</td>
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<td>Books</td>
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<td>Local Transportation</td>
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<td>Passport/Photos</td>
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<td>$ 170</td>
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<td>Multiple Entry Non-Immigrant Visa</td>
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<td>$ 200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Expenses &amp; school uniform</td>
<td>15,500</td>
<td>$ 449</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated Round-Trip Airfare (MSP to Chiang Mai)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ADDITIONAL COSTS TO EXPECT</strong>:</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$ 3,833</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL ESTIMATED PROGRAM COST:**  
**$ 7,277**

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